



STATE OF KANSAS OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL **TRUMPET**

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From the Desk of the State Fire Marshal, Doug Jorgensen

The men and women of the Office of the State Fire Marshal extend our thoughts and prayers to those impacted by hurricane Sandy and to our emergency responders who are working diligently to help those in need during these difficult times.

It's November and daylight savings time comes to an end. When you turn back your clocks remember to install new batteries in smoke alarms and CO detectors, and to test them. It seems like a simple message, but sadly, almost two-thirds of home fire deaths happen in fires where no smoke alarms were present or the ones present did not work.

November is also a time to remember our Veterans. Everyone at the Fire Marshal's Office salutes our men and women in uniform and we thank them for their service. We also thank those who served before them and the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

October was exceptionally busy with all the Fire Prevention Week activities. Kansas fire departments conducted hundreds of programs, school events, presentations, exhibits, and station tours. OSFM staff provided resources and traveled to many events. The Fire Education Association of Kansas gave mini grants to help nine small departments reach over 36,000 Kansans with prevention materials and Safe Kids Coalitions across Kansas concentrated their efforts on fire safety. Collectively, everyone worked hard to get the fire safety message out!

I also had the opportunity to travel and meet dozens of hard-working, dedicated emergency services personnel, fire chiefs, city and county leaders and everyday Kansans. I was fortunate to attend the KSFFA Regional Fire School hosted by Bentley Fire Department, the 11th annual Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Wichita and the 25th annual National Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Girard. Last week OFSM personnel attended the 96th Annual Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs conference in Hutchinson and participated in the presentation of the 2012 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award. Congratulations to this year's recipients, Firefighter Josh Forbes and Lieutenant Sam Hittle of the Wichita Fire Department for their bravery and courage that went above and beyond the call of duty!

As we look forward to the upcoming Holiday season please keep in mind this is the time of year when the majority of home fire deaths happen. Unattended cooking, holiday decorations, candles, and alternate heating sources are the predominate causes. Take advantage of, and share, the safety tips contained in the Trumpet and let's make this holiday season in Kansas a safe one!

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History of Veterans Day A Day to Honor All Who Have Served

World War I, the "Great War", officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919 outside the town of Versailles, France. Fighting had ceased seven months earlier when an armistice went into effect on the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month.

In 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as "Armistice Day". In 1938 it was declared a legal holiday and the word "Armistice" was changed to "Veteran". Then in 1954 it was declared a day to honor all American veterans of all wars. It was President Eisenhower that same year who issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation".

Take time this year to thank a veteran for their service and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

CURRENT EVENTS

Derby Fire Department Receives National Recognition

By The Informer Staff



Derby Fire Chief Brad Smith (left) presents his department's 2011 Life Safety Achievement Award to Mayor Dion Avello. Picture by Linda Stinnett

The Derby Fire Department was the only Kansas fire department to receive national recognition for its fire prevention efforts in 2011.

On September 15th, they were awarded the 2011 Life Safety Achievement Award because they had no fire deaths in that year. In addition, the department demonstrated that they have an active and effective fire prevention program and a clear commitment to reducing the number of fires in homes in the community, according to Jim Narva, executive director of the National Association of State Fire Marshal's Fire Research and Education Foundation.

The Foundation stresses the importance of fire prevention efforts, because while residential fires represent only 20% of all fires, they result in 80% of all fire deaths. "Experience tells us that fire prevention activity and public education can significantly reduce life and property loss from residential fires," said the Foundation media release.

During Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13, they reached out to students in local schools with a full schedule of activities, station tours and presentations. They also took children through the department "smoke house". They estimate they educate nearly 1,500 kids throughout the year as well as more than 100 adults.

New Administrative Support Staff Join OSFM



Jeanette Bigger

Jeanette joined the office as a temporary receptionist where she has worked the past year. She now joins our permanent staff. Jeanette retired from SW Bell and enjoys scrap booking and card making with boyfriend JD as well as spending time with her grandchildren.



Jessica Dunderdale

Jessica is also a receptionist. She was in the Army as an Ammunition Specialist where she spent time in Kuwait and Korea. She enjoys backpacking and hiking with her husband Jason.

Reno County Commission Approves Free Smoke Alarms for Older Residents

By Ken Stephens - The Hutchinson News

The Reno County Commission unanimously approved accepting a \$3,200 state injury grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The grant will pay for smoke alarms in the homes of elderly residents in the County.

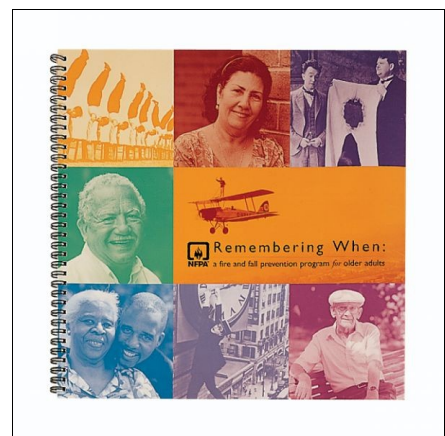
To get the free smoke detector, elderly residents will need to attend a two-hour safety education class to be taught by the Home Health Coordinator, JoAnn Hager. Twenty classes will be offered, January through August 2013, at various sites, including one at the Delos V. Smith Senior Center, another at the Salvation Army and more at area fire departments.

At this time the Commission is trying to decide whether to purchase regular \$12 smoke detectors or combination smoke and carbon monoxide detectors which average \$29 each.

"Remembering When: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults" Available Through OSFM Loaner Library

People 65 and older are twice as likely to be killed or injured by fires and falls than the population at large.

Designed by the National Fire Protection Association for a multicultural audience, *Remembering When* is a complete, step-by-step program that teaches life-saving lessons to this high-risk group. It includes lesson plans, brochures, fact sheets, game cards and more!



If you would like more information on programs for older adults or for more information on how to borrow this kit so you and your department can conduct fire safety programs for the older adults in your community contact: Elena Nuss at 785-296-3403 or Elena.nuss@ksfm.ks.gov

SFM Doug Jorgensen Presents Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award



Pictured from left: State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen, Wichita Fire Chief Ron Blackwell, Firefighter Josh Forbes, Lt. Sam Hittle, KSFFA President JL Ellis, KAFCA President Colby Fire Chief Bob McLemore. At the podium Deputy State Fire Marshal Terry Maple

members of the Wichita Fire Department they overheard radio traffic regarding a structure fire with people possibly trapped. Although not assigned the call, the firefighters, who were only a few blocks away responded. Fire was shooting from the rear of the home when they arrived.

As the first firefighters on scene, Lieutenant Sam Hittle and Firefighter Josh Forbes were immediately approached by bystanders who said a two year old girl was trapped in the room that was on fire. The intensity of the fire and fear for the child's life lead Hittle and Forbes to act immediately. They broke out the bedroom window and Firefighter Forbes crawled inside in an attempt to perform a VES (ventilate, enter and search) maneuver. Forbes heard the sound of the little girl's gurgled breathing and searching the area, found her lying wedged between the headboard and mattress. After freeing the girl, Firefighter Forbes relied on Lt. Hittle's voice as a guide to lead him back to the open window. Upon reaching the window, Firefighter Forbes transferred the little girl to Lt. Hittle and returned to safety.

While Lt. Hittle worked to open the little girl's airway and began attempts to revive her, flames blew out the front door of the house next to the bedroom where she had been found. Other crews arrived and worked to extinguish the fire which was finally brought under control, allowing the rest of the home to be searched. No other victims were located. Following treatment at the scene, the little girl was transported to St. Francis hospital where she made a full recovery.

In recognition of their efforts, Firefighter Josh Forbes and Lt. Sam Hittle, for their prompt response, quick decision making and selfless actions on the night of July 22, 2011 were awarded the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award for bravery above and beyond the call of duty. On-hand at the award ceremony was Hutchinson Fire Chief Kim Forbes, from the conference host department and the proud father of one of the recipients, Firefighter Josh Forbes.



Firefighter Josh Forbes
Wichita Fire Department and his father,
Hutchinson Fire Chief Kim Forbes.

Please join the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Kansas Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Kansas State Firefighters Association in recognizing these fine firefighting professionals and recipients of the



Pictured from left: Wichita Fire Chief Ron Blackwell, Firefighter Josh Forbes, Lt. Sam Hittle, Hutchinson Fire Chief and Proud Father Kim Forbes. At the podium Deputy State Fire Marshal Terry Maple



Lt. Sam Hittle
Wichita Fire Department

2012 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award!

State Fire Marshal Attends Fallen Firefighter Memorial

On October 13th, State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen attended the 11th Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service in Wichita at the Kansas Firefighter Museum and Memorial Park.



Honor Guard firefighters and citizens from around Kansas gathered to honor the memories of the firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty for their community. The keynote speaker was Retired Wichita Deputy Chief Walt Campbell. At the Memorial this year, the names of 106 brave souls were read as the bell was tolled and a flower placed in their honor.



Three Generations Serve Fairmont Township

by Ann Margret Montemayor,
Reporter Basehor Sentinel

Firefighters will always watch their brothers' backs in a dangerous situation, but for three generations of Brandts that bond is a bit stronger.



Roger Brandt started volunteering for the Fairmount Township Fire Department in 1964. In March, Lee Brandt, Roger's son, will celebrate 30 years at the department. Lee actually got involved long before becoming a firefighter, when, as a 14-year-old boy he would hop on the truck with his dad. Mallorie Belk, Roger's granddaughter and Lee's niece, was originally interested in law enforcement, but as a cadet with the department, she's now set her sights on studying fire science and emergency medical services.

It runs in the family! In fact although Mallorie doesn't go out as a first responder, they all do occasionally answer calls together.

Roger and Lee are happy they don't see huge fires like they used to, but they recall a difficult overnighter or two they've spent together while working. They always keep an eye out for their colleagues, Roger said, but that's especially true when it's a son or granddaughter in the line of duty.

“Going Old School”

by Captain Joe Flakes

As you walk through the halls of the new Paola Kansas Volunteer Fire Station, the signs of the school it used to be are still evident.

The building had been a school for nearly 60 years, but with a clear plan it made a simple transition to a firehouse. It's a good example of what's known as “adaptive reuse,” taking a structure originally designed for one thing and using it for something else. It is recycling on a grand scale.

Roughly a decade ago, nearly everyone agreed that it was time for a new station. The volunteer department of 26 members had called their station home for nearly 100 years, but the department's needs and responsibilities had grown, and equipment was parked in three separate buildings. Voters approved the funding for the project in 2005 and several sites were considered but a new building would mean a tight budget.

Built in 1951, the old school building was mostly empty when Chief Andy Martin looked at the west-side windows and envisioned bay doors along the entire stretch. The idea gained traction and the building was purchased in 2009.

A major step was to clearly differentiate between needs and wants. Then, contractor qualifications were reviewed and three were chosen to give proposals with a \$2 million budget. Much consideration was given to how responsive the contractor would be to the needs of the fire department, and how many local subcontractors would be used. The contract was given to a local company, Legacy Contractors, which had a considerable amount of general construction experience, but had never constructed a fire station. Legacy proposed the use of many local subcontractors. The involvement of so many entities gave the community a real sense of ownership in the project.

All the plumbing, HVAC and electrical would be replaced which meant that no rooms, even bathrooms, had to be left where they were. The structure would be looked at as an industrial building, which meant leaving conduit on existing walls mounted on the surface, and even new doors would be of simple, painted-steel construction. Change orders were kept to a minimum and simple, robust, and economical materials were used. They used high-efficiency lighting fixtures, and geothermal heating and cooling to reduce on-going operating costs of the 22,000-square-foot building.

Training space was incorporated into all aspects of the design. The old gym, being in excellent condition, was left intact and is available for public use. A large cabinet filled with memorabilia and photographs from the former school is prominently displayed in the main hall. As much as was repurposed as possible to reduce what had to go to the landfill.

The total renovation came in \$200,000 under budget and two months ahead of schedule. With this cost savings and some additional apparatus funds previously set aside, a new Class A Sutphen engine was purchased. Then in March 2010, more than 200 people attended the traditional hose-uncoupling ceremony.

The Paola Fire Department project is a shining example of what can be accomplished by thinking outside the box, using what you have and including the community in the decisions to insure the buy-in of everyone. The building is now a modern and active fire station, but to the community it will always be the “Old School Firehouse.”

Since the original project the department has added a full scale apartment complex in the basement to be used for training purposes with tons of additional space that will be available for future projects.



Girard Fire Department Announces New Fire Chief

The Girard City Council hired Chase D. Waggoner as their new fire chief. Chief Waggoner is from Lebanon, Missouri where he was the Deputy Fire Chief, EMS Chief and Grant Administrator for the Eldridge Fire Department.

Chief Waggoner holds a National Registered EMT license and is certified as a Fire Officer II, fire service instructor and Firefighter II. He also served two terms on the City Council and is an officer in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Congratulations Chief Waggoner!

Morning Fire Forces Evacuation of Senior Housing

By Dave Bergmeier and Tim Horan
The Abilene Reflector-Chronicle

Residents at a senior living facility escaped injuries when a fire hit early Saturday morning and firefighters responded from Abilene and Grant Township fire departments.

Frontier Estates is a non-assisted and low-income 60-room senior apartment facility with more than 60 residents. Three people were taken to the emergency room at Memorial Hospital, but none of the treatment was due to fire injuries. One resident had tripped during the evacuation process and two were taken for chest pains. All were evaluated and released.

Two nearby churches, St. John's Episcopal Church and First Christian Church, served as sites for residents to go to and then consolidated into First Christian Church.

Abilene assistant fire chief Ron Rein said the fire appeared to have started on the southern end of the second floor. The fire then spread above to the third floor, into an attic then into the roof. The damage was contained to an apartment on each floor and to the attic roof line.

The resident that lived in the apartment of origin didn't know anything was going on until a sheriff's officer kicked her door in to get her out. The fire was limited to a small area of the facility.

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is investigating the cause of the fire.



Wellington Fire Department and GKN Aerospace Precision Machining Partnership



Heritage Park was full of festival goers at the recent Fall Festival in Wellington Kansas. Among the festivities were the chili and salsa cook-offs, education booths and demonstrations like the one by

the Wellington Fire Department who partnered with the GKN Aerospace Precision Machining too allow festival goers to look at the ambulance and other equipment.



Children, with the help of fire department staff, had the opportunity to spray a small fire hose. Tons of fun and learning were had by all who attended the annual event.

Regional Fire School Held in Bentley

Fire Departments from around the region came together at the Bentley Primary School for the KSFFA Regional Fire School in Bentley a couple of weeks ago. KSFFA hauled their live burn trailer to the event, which allowed them to do a live burn that took up much of the first morning. In addition to the live burn, the weekend offered a four-hour Chief Officer class.



Most of the classes ran the entire weekend with classroom instruction and hand-on practice, however some classes were one-day or half-day sessions consisting primarily of classroom activities.

The weekend was a tremendous success allowing regional responders to learn new skills and practice their existing skill sets.

Many other opportunities were made available for participants including Vehicle Extrication, Rural Water Supply, Firefighter Safety and Survival, Lessons Learned, Grain Elevator Emergencies, Ropes and Ladders and Fire Behavior.

Annual Fallen Firefighter Memorial Girard Fire Department



Firefighters from around Crawford County Kansas and Jasper County Missouri hosted the 25th annual Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Service on Sunday afternoon, October 14th in Girard.

The event was started 25 years ago by then Fire Chief Pete Scales and continued after his retirement by firefighters. Since this was the Silver Anniversary of the ceremony, planners moved the event to the High School football field so Eagle Med could stage a helicopter flyover and landing. It also allowed them to use one of the Girard Fire Department ladder trucks to raise a giant American flag.

Former Chief Scales was one of the guest speakers, saying, "All that we ask for those who are still in the service and their friends is to please be vigilant and don't become one of those members we honor today."

After Fire Marshal Terry Powell read the Fireman's Prayer, firefighters read the names, by state, of the 80 firefighters killed in the line of duty in the United States during 2011. A brass bell was rung in honor of each lost firefighter.

Keynote Bob White, Fire Science Coordinator at Hutchinson Community College spoke about how important it is for firefighters to stay at the top of their game. "We have services talking about the names of the fallen, then a few weeks down the line we fall into the same thinking that it won't happen to us," he said, "that's not right. You need to remember them every day. Changing what we do and becoming better firefighters is how we honor them" The memorial concluded by the playing of taps.



In Memoriam

Brandon Lee Cox
May 6, 1972 - October 10, 2012

Brandon Cox was a lifetime Dodge City resident who served his community as an emergency responder for the Ford County Fire and EMS for more than 20 years.

The Staff of the OSFM extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.



Fort Riley Fire & Emergency Services (FES) Teach Children About Fire Safety

by Pamela Redford, First Infantry Division Post Fort Riley



Fort Riley Fire and Emergency Services (FES) spoke to nearly 2,500 students during Fire Prevention Week Oct. 7 to 13 at schools on and off the installation.

FES firefighters visited White City, Jefferson, Ware, Morris Hill, Seitz, Custer Hill and Fort Riley elementary schools to conduct 45-minute

presentations on fire safety that included a short video and a question-and-answer session.

Students learned about crawling low in smoke; calling 911 for emergencies; stop, drop and roll techniques; not to play with matches and lighters; the importance of having a fire escape plan; knowing two ways out of every room in the house; not to be afraid or hide from firefighters; and to never re-enter a burning building.

"If we can get (the kids) on our side, we can make contact with them a lot easier than making contact with the adults. When we talk to the kids, we challenge them to go home and talk to mom and dad ... And mom and dad learn about (fire safety) also," said Stephon Dailing, lead Fire Inspector, Directorate of Emergency Services.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme was, "Have 2 Ways Out." So, students were challenged to draw a picture of their homes then show they know where their bedroom, windows, front door and primary and secondary exits are. "They don't realize that that's what they're doing, but in essence they are actually drawing an escape plan," he said. "If even one kid does it, and it helps that one kid, then this entire week is well worth it," Dailing said.

Branden Maxwell, 7, Jefferson Elementary School, said the FES presentation taught him not to go back inside a burning building after exiting. "In case there's a fire and somebody's left behind in there, you don't go back in. You have to call 911 ... And they'll come to save them," he said.

For MaKensie Stivers, 7, Jefferson Elementary School, the biggest lesson learned was how to make a safety plan with her family. "You always have to have a place where you can meet and be safe, and you have to have two ways to get out of your house. If you live on the second or third floor, you need a special ladder," she said. "It's always important to have a safety plan because your parents are at your safe meeting place."

Alimael Negron, 6, Jefferson Elementary School, said he wanted to practice a fire drill at home with his family. "When you hear (the smoke alarm), you have to roll over and be on your knees, crawl, put your hand on door and feel if it's hot or cold. Open the door if it's cool or go the other way if it's hot," he said.

Dailing stressed to students the importance of getting out quickly, no matter what they might have to leave behind. "Toys, clothes, video games, cameras, TVs and stuff can get replaced. Can I walk in to the store and buy you off the shelf? Can I go in to the supermarket and special order you and they send you to my house? Guys, there's only one of you – one of him, one of her. Stuff can get replaced; it doesn't matter – stuff is stuff. Never go back inside a burning building. When you're out, you're out," he said.

St. John - Hudson Students Learn Fire Safety

Thick white smoke made visibility impossible, but the number and location of a group of USD 350 fourth grade students was very apparent on the fire department's new thermal imaging camera.

It was only a simulation, at the St. John fire station, that had students lost in a smoke-filled room as part of fire safety week. According to St. John Fire Chief Michael Sanders, they were able to pinpoint each student in the room. "Our new thermal imaging camera can show us how many people are in a burning house, where they are and where the hottest spots in the house are," Sanders said.

The camera, which was purchased in part through funds raised by the firefighters annual soup supper, is one of the new lifesaving tools firefighters demonstrated to elementary school children during the annual Fire Prevention Week activities.

The camera can help firefighters locate individuals in a fire, but has many other uses. The auto-lock feature will automatically pinpoint the hot spots in a house making it easier for firefighters to locate fire burning inside walls or attics, it can even show where wiring might be in danger of starting an electrical fire due to overheating.

As part of the program each group of students was lead into a room filled with a harmless smoke that gave the children some idea of what it would be like if they were ever caught in a real fire situation.

Along with the smoke room, students were taught about the importance of having a fire plan, which included checking for smoke detectors in their home, planning a fire emergency escape route with two ways out of every sleeping room and designating a place for everyone to meet outside the home. The lessons are adjusted to the age of the students in each presentation.

"With the younger kids we show them our gear and what the firefighters look like when they enter a burning building so they will know not to be afraid," said Stafford County EMS Nick Lauffer. "With the older kids we show them a video about house fires, have them make a fire plan, and check to see if they have smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in their homes."

Lauffer told students if they did not have smoke detectors in their homes to have their parents contact the fire station and they may be able to provide some help.

During the week students were given different lectures and classes on fire safety, but the highlight for most, was the parade around the square where each class gets an escorted ride in the city fire trucks.

The Department also handed out small gift bags to each of the kids.



FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION NEWS

Holiday Decorating and the Codes

Now that Halloween has passed, we're quickly moving into the start of the holiday season. Thanksgiving is right around the corner and merchants are setting up their holiday displays.

Merchants are not the only groups who will want to set up displays to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the other holidays which occur. We will decorate our homes, offices, schools, long-term care facilities, even the community town square.

These decorations bring with them the joy and fellowship of coming together in celebration of faith and family. They also bring with them a heightened level of fire danger when not properly maintained or displayed. For healthcare facilities, decorations often will include posters and pictures of residents and their families, consumer decorations and homemade crafts.

NFPA 101, *The Life Safety Code* allows the use of these decorations in the resident's rooms and in public areas. For existing facilities, the 2000 Edition of NFPA 101, *The Life Safety Code*, allows "*Combustible decorations, such as photographs and paintings, in such limited quantities that a hazard of fire development or spread is not present.*"

For hospitals and nursing homes, the code allows up to 10% of the total aggregate area to be covered by non-treated decorations. (19.7.5.4). For example, a 50-foot long corridor wall which is 8-feet tall from floor to the ceiling will equal 400 square feet. Ten percent of this space is 40 square feet; you do not need to remove the doors from this calculation. This means that you can have up to 40 square feet of this single wall covered by decorations. If the opposite wall is the same size, you will have the same size space.

For schools, the 2006 ed. of the *International Fire Code*® (807.4.3.2), allows up to 20% of the total aggregate area to be covered by non-treated decorations. If a school corridor is 125-foot long by 8-feet tall from floor to ceiling, this is 1000 square feet. Twenty percent would be 200 square feet. Once again, the doors and/or any fully-enclosed lockers will be included.

In both situations, if you have existing wall art, murals, posters or any other non-treated decorations, you must calculate the amount of space those items consume, then deduct that from the total available space. This allows you to calculate the remaining space available for holiday decorations. An example might be that 200 square feet of school wall. If the school has a trophy case mounted to the wall which is 8 foot long by 6 foot high, that uses 48 square feet of space. Subtract that from 200 square feet and you have a total of 152 square feet of space still available for decorations. To convert a square foot into inches you would multiply the number of feet by 144.

Tripping hazards are another concern in corridors. The Life Safety Code and the International Fire Code prohibit any object which can "*obstruct exits, access thereto, egress there from, or visibility thereof*" (NFPA 101, 7.1.10.2.1). Again, there are different code references for healthcare and educational facilities, but the message is the same, no objects can be placed in your exit corridors.

The codes also reference "visibility" obstructions; this occurs when a facility will paint the doors or apply decorations in a way which would cause the doors to be visually obscured from occupants. The corridor cannot have any object which would (or potentially could) prohibit safe passage to the exit(s). This can include trees, plants, static displays even furniture.

Decorations cannot be hung from the ceiling tiles or sprinkler heads, because such items could add to the fuel load and impede safe exit as well as increase the fuel load in a fire they are prohibited by the codes. No objects can be within 18-in of the ceiling in any room for any building which is equipped with an automatic sprinkler system. This ensures that the sprinkler heads will operate properly.

The OSFM encourages facilities to provide an environment for residents, students, visitors and staff to enjoy the upcoming holiday celebrations with a bit of preplanning. If you have questions about decorating your facility, contact the Fire Prevention Division at 785-296-3401

Have a safe Thanksgiving!!!

New Faces of Prevention

Damian Nightingale



Damian will be the FP Inspector for the South Central area of the state.

He comes to us from Newton where he was with the Sedgwick County EMS. Damian is certified as FF I, FF II, HazMat Awareness and HazMat Operations through KF&RTI.

Christopher Broin



Christopher will be the FP Inspector for the North Central area of the state.

He comes to us from the First National Bank of Hays where he performed property inspections. Christopher lives in Nekoma where he is a volunteer firefighter.

Change Your Clocks, Change Your Battery



Give your smoke alarms and CO detectors a fresh battery this weekend when you change your clocks from daylight savings time!!

Top Five School Fire Safety Concerns

The OSFM Prevention Division has started its winter inspection schedule. This means that our staff and local fire department inspectors have been going back into schools across the state for their annual inspection.

There were 2,376 violations cited in 851 school buildings last year; that comes out to an average of 3 violations per school, an acceptable number.

While some schools did have some life-safety issues, most were not going to cause any immediate life safety concerns. Violations were fixed or repaired while the inspector was still conducting the inspection. The top five violations were:

1. Use of Extension cords
2. Systems Maintained
3. Emergency Lighting
4. Fire Extinguishers
5. Power Strips

When looking at the top five violations cited, most could be directly related to keeping systems maintained.

There were 228 violations for the use of extension cords, several of these were used in place of having permanent wiring, while it is understood that adding additional electrical runs in an existing building can be expensive and takes time to complete; the use of extension cords should be used for temporary use only, the International Fire Code, 2006 defines temporary use as up to 90-days. Also consider the use of extension cords and the amount of power the extension cords are rated to handle; high power items such as coffee makers, refrigerators or some shop equipment should never be powered by using extension cords.

Along with extension cords we found 139 violations involving the use of power strips. Again, please remember that power strips should not be used in place of permanent wiring or additional outlets. Power strips cannot be attached to each other or daisy-chained to extend the number of outlets available or to add additional length to add equipment.

Just like extension cords, power strips are rated for the amount of power they are capable of handling. It is also important to know, not only how much power the strip is capable of handling, but also what the outlet is capable of.

The use of multi-outlet boxes on outlets is prohibited. If you are using a power strip to power computer or other office equipment, be sure that the power strip has a power rating capable of handling the needs of the equipment, also has circuit protection such as a resettable fuse or circuit breaker as well as surge protection.

There were 228 violations involving systems maintenance; these include life-safety systems such as the automatic fire notification systems and automatic sprinkler systems. These systems must be inspected based on a schedule listed in the code and also require annual maintenance to be performed by qualified personnel. Inspections and the testing must be documented and that documentation must be available for the inspector when they arrive at your building.

Some of the maintenance can be completed by building staff, but there are parts which require specific training and certification by the personnel who will perform the testing. This training is usually specific to the systems and being "certified" on system A does not mean that you can perform testing on system B.

It is best to have the fire alarm or sprinkler supplier provide these tests since they are familiar with code requirements as well as the systems they are working on. In some cases, the maintenance and testing was completed, but the documentation needed to verify this, was not available to the inspector, which is why the citation was issued.

There were 220 violations on emergency lighting. This did not mean that the lighting was not there, in most cases the lights were not being tested or there was no documentation showing the lights had been tested and maintained.

Emergency lights must have two sources of power, a primary and a secondary. The primary source is the regular building power system; the secondary source can be either battery backup, emergency generator, or a combination of the two. Lights with a battery backup must be checked for 30 seconds each month and for 90 minutes annually. Each test must be logged and the log available for review at the inspection.

Generators also have specific testing and maintenance requirements that must be logged and the log available for review at the inspection.

There were 155 violations for failure to maintain fire extinguishers. These require a monthly "quick check" which can be performed by building staff. The quick check consists of verifying the extinguisher is still ready for service and is functional. They also must be serviced annually by a licensed fire extinguisher company. Fire extinguishers must have a tag showing when it was serviced last; this tag cannot be removed. Any personnel who service fire extinguishers must be licensed by the OSFM. Failure to be licensed will result in a violation during the inspection.

For additional information on testing or maintenance requirements, please check our website or contact the Prevention .

Congratulations



School Administrators and Staff



For your attention to fire safety!

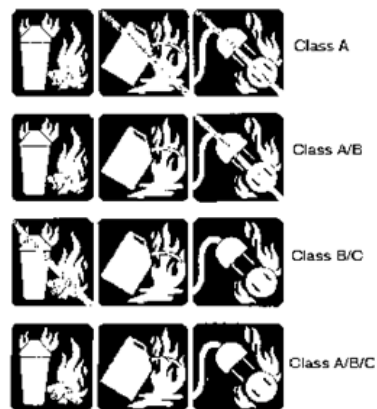
Using the Right Fire Extinguisher for the Right Situation

During a recent inspection, one of our field inspectors found a situation where an approved product was being used in a situation which it was not approved for. The facility had purchased a fire extinguisher which, according to facility representatives, had been sold to them as a product approved for use in Class K (Kitchen) fires. The product which is marketed under the name *Cold Fire®* by Fire-Freeze Worldwide, Inc. does have a UL Listing. The facility was told by the sales representative that because it was "UL Listed" it could be used in their Kitchen; however this information is not accurate. *Cold Fire®* is UL listed and approved as a Class A or Class B "wetting agent" and meets the criteria under NFPA 18, *The Standard on Wetting Agents*.

There are five classifications for fire extinguishers. These classifications help identify which fires the extinguisher is approved for use on.

- **Class A - Ordinary Combustibles** - fires consist of ordinary combustibles such as wood, cloth and paper. They have a label which often shows as trash can and campfire or will have a green triangle with the letter "A" inside it.
- **Class B - Fuel Fires** - fires consist of liquid fuels such as greases and gases. A Class B extinguisher will typically have a label which shows a fuel can on fire or will have a red square with the letter "B" inside it.
- **Class C - Energized Electrical** - fires consist of energized electrical equipment such as computers, servers, etc. These extinguishers have a label which will show an electrical outlet or a blue circle with the letter "C" inside it.
- **Class D - Combustible Metals** - fires are combustible metals such as magnesium, titanium, sodium, and potassium. Class D fires will have a yellow star with the letter "D" inside; because these metals have different characteristics when they burn, the extinguisher will also identify which metal fires it is approved or capable of extinguishing.
- **Class K - Cooking/Kitchen Fires** - fires involve cooking grease or oils used in Kitchens. These extinguishers will typically have a label showing a frying pan on fire or a black or purple hexagon (6-sides) with the letter "K" inside.

CLASSES OF FIRES	TYPES OF FIRES	PICTURE SYMBOL
A	Wood, paper, cloth, trash & other ordinary materials.	
B	Gasoline, oil, paint and other flammable liquids.	
C	May be used on fires involving live electrical equipment without danger to the operator.	
D	Combustible metals and combustible metal alloys.	
K	Cooking media (Vegetable or Animal Oils and Fats)	



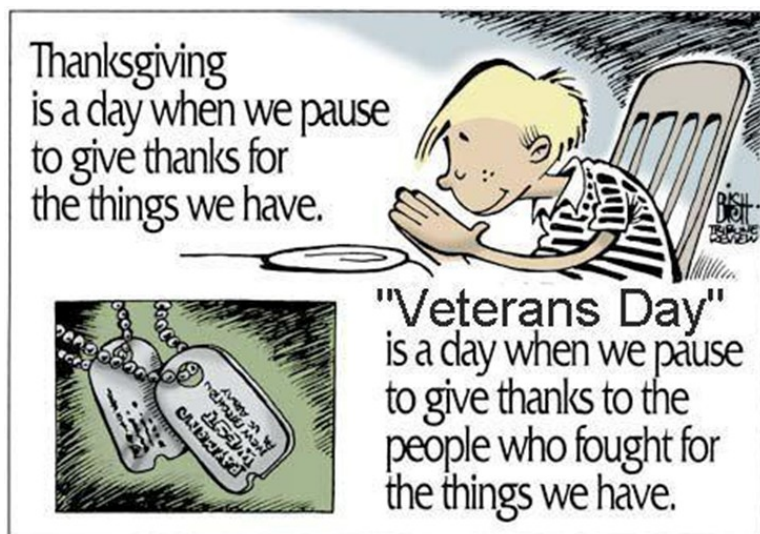
Some extinguishers can extinguish multiple classes of fires depending on the extinguishing agent. An example of a multi-class extinguisher is a carbon dioxide extinguisher which can extinguish Class A, Class B or Class C fires (*note: Class D and K extinguishers will typically be product or class specific and cannot be used for Class A-C fires*).

The code requires extinguishers be located in your facilities, but these extinguishers must be capable of extinguishing the fires which occur in that area. For example, a Class A extinguisher should not be placed into a server room. This is because the product used may cause damage to the electronics or could conduct electricity, so be sure to check what the extinguishing agent(s) used in the extinguisher are before placing it in your facility.

Cold Fire® contains a wetting agent, similar to firefighting foam, which is mixed with water at a certain percentage to extinguish fires. This product can be purchased in many different forms from a ready-to-use extinguisher to a concentrated agent which can be mixed in water cans or other pressurized vessels. Because this is UL listed as a "wetting agent" it means that it is still a water-based extinguisher and should not be used for electrical fires; it is also not approved for use on metals or animal fats and oils found in Kitchens. It can be used anywhere a Class A or Class B extinguisher is approved for use.

Before purchasing any life-safety equipment for your facility, please be sure to research the product and ensure it will meet the code requirements, do not simply take the word of the sales representative. Do your own research!

There are new products reaching the consumer market every day, some of the products can be misleading because of their labels or even the product names. If you are unable to locate information or you are unsure if the product can be approved for use, do not hesitate to contact the Prevention Division at 785-296-3401 or contact your local fire department for advice or additional assistance.



FIRE INVESTIGATION DIVISION NEWS



OSFM Fire Investigator Wins Two Events at the KPOA Spring Shooting Match

The OSFM is proud to announce that Fire Investigator Rod Oldridge recently won two events at the Kansas Peace Officers Association Spring Shooting Match. Investigator Oldridge won both the Trap Shooting event and the Handicap Trap Shooting event.

The Kansas Peace Officers Association was founded in 1916 and serves to promote personal acquaintance among Peace Officers of Kansas; advance the science pertaining to the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of criminals; promote the improvement of Police Service and the advancement of the Law Enforcement Profession and raise the standard of Law Enforcement Institutions and Officials.

The KPOA hosts trainings and other events/competitions throughout the year and sponsors several programs in the interest of better law enforcement and community relations and safety in the state of Kansas.



Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center Graduation



Fire Investigator Lamar Shoemaker's son, Dugan, graduated Friday as a member of the 220th Basic Training Class at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center.

Dugan Shoemaker will now begin his duties with the Kickapoo Tribal Police.

Pictured above from the right are Fire Investigator Jeff Davis, Graduate Dugan Shoemaker and Fire Investigator Lamar Shoemaker.

Congratulations Dugan from the OSFM!!

Tana and Friends at Turner Elementary

Investigation Division Chief Rose Rozmiarek joined Tana and her friends from the Turner Elementary School in Kansas City Kansas during Fire Prevention Week.

Among the activities, the children, with the help of KMBC.com, recorded fire safety messages in a video that can be viewed at <http://www.kmbc.com/news/kansas-city/National-Fire-Prevention-Safety-Month-under-way/-/11664182/16962670/-/va2geb/-/index.html>



Each child worked with a member of the emergency services to cover one fire safety tip. The topics covered by the children included: the importance of having working smoke alarms, planning and practicing your home fire escape drill, and knowing when and how to call 9-1-1 to report an emergency. Children learned what kinds of situations are really considered emergencies, and how important it is to NEVER call 9-1-1 unless it is a real emergency.

The children also practiced how to stop-drop-roll if their clothes catch on fire. Firefighters in full bunker gear helped them practice this important lesson.

Each child was taught that in an emergency they need to get out and stay out, go to their family meeting place, and call 9-1-1 from outside the house. Children are told to NEVER go back inside for any reason, not for toys or pets or even siblings, but instead to wait for the firefighters then tell them if someone is still inside. This led to important discussions about how important having a designated meeting place can be, so you know when everyone is out.

Lt. Kelli Bailiff of the Kansas City Kansas Sheriff's Office coordinated this very successful event and Chief Fire Investigator Rose Rozmiarek and Tana helped with all the activities.

Certified Fire Investigator Reminder

All personnel that are Certified Fire Investigator (CFI) through the Office of the State Fire Marshal need to remember that with the certification it grants them law enforcement authority such as powers to arrest under both Level I and Level II. The only difference between the two levels is the ability to carry a firearm.

With that authority you cannot hold the CFI certification and hold a license to be a private investigator in the State of Kansas. If you wish to hold a private investigator license to conduct origin and cause investigations for the private sector you must surrender your State CFI certification by notifying the OSFM and returning your current certification card.

Blasting operations that may be near your residence or business

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Blasting in Neighborhoods

Provided by Phyllis E. Hassler, VP and Area Manager for Vibra-Tech Inc.

Some questions adapted for Kansas by Rose Rozmiarek, Chief of Investigations OSFM

As an industry blasters recognize that blasting near your home or business raises questions about what effects it might have on you and your property. Although some of the information is technical these answers could benefit building owners everywhere.

Why do I feel the blasting?

Most of the energy from a blast is used to break rock, but some energy will travel from the blast site in the form of ground and air waves. Each of these can cause your house to vibrate or shake. Human beings are very sensitive to all vibrations. It is possible that you will feel or hear your house shake from the blasting, even at very low levels.

Why do some blasts feel stronger than others?

How a blast feels depends on ground or air waves that reach your house. These are influenced by the type of blast, the distance from the blast and the amount of explosives.

Your location on the property also affects your perception of the blast. If you are outside a house, you will tend to feel the ground vibrations in your feet and legs. Inside a house you sense the structure and objects responding to the vibrations. You may also hear things rattle. This is why you and your neighbors may feel or describe blast vibrations differently.

How does the blasting company protect my property?

Blasters are licensed professionals who are required by regulation and by their employers to continually obtain training. They are trained to plan, design, implement and monitor blasts. This training stresses safety in all aspects including protection of your property.

Prior to blasting, pre-blast inspections may be offered to nearby property owners to document the existing condition of buildings and identify sensitive structures, building components or contents. The site conditions and the inspection information are employed to design the blast to minimize effects to your property.

To ensure that the blasts are working as planned, the resulting ground and air waves can be measured with a blasting seismograph.

What does a seismograph do?

A blasting seismograph measures and records ground and air waves from a blast. The information is reported as waveforms, also known as time history records. Time histories show how the strength (amplitude) of the waves varies over time. Amplitudes are reported as particle velocity (inches per second) for ground waves and pressure (pounds per square inch) or decibels for air waves.

Another important characteristic of the time history is frequency. Frequency is the number of complete waves that pass by in one second. It is reported in Hertz (cycles per second). Both amplitude and frequency are needed to describe the motion from ground and air waves.

The blasting seismograph information is used to show compliance with regulations or specified limits and to evaluate blast design performance. Most importantly, it verifies that the ground and air vibrations are within standards set to protect structures.

Can you alter the data on the seismograph?

No, blasting seismograph data is stored digitally and coded internally to prevent tampering. The data is printed with proprietary software from the manufacturer.

Why don't you monitor the vibrations inside my house?

Research shows it is more consistent to measure ground waves entering the structure. The seismograph sensor is attached to the ground outside your house. By installing sensors outside, the measured vibration levels can be compared with known safe limits, existing regulations, or industry standards.

Is my house in more danger because it's on the same rock ledge that they're blasting?

Ground waves change as they pass through different kinds of materials, and in general, the strength (amplitude) decreases rapidly as it moves farther from a blast. This happens regardless of whether they follow the same rock layer or whether that layer changes. As these waves reach your property, your house will be protected if the strength of the vibrations are within allowable limits. These limits are conservatively set to protect surrounding houses regardless of the underlying material.

Will the blasting vibrations damage my foundation?

The foundation is the strongest part of a house. Vibration standards are designed to protect the weakest parts of the house, such as plaster and drywall. Ground vibrations strong enough to crack foundations consisting of concrete and masonry would far exceed the limits set by typical standards.

Will the blasting vibrations damage my water well/cistern/septic tank?

Below-ground structures are confined in the ground and can only move as much as the ground itself moves. They respond less to the ground waves than a house or other buildings above ground. Therefore standards that protect houses will also protect below-ground structures.

Will blasting cause soil settlement?

Only unusual soils like very loose, saturated sands are susceptible to settlement from ground vibrations. Even where these soils are present, typical blasts do not create conditions which cause settlement due to the short duration and relatively low amplitude of the ground waves.

How long after blasting can my house be affected?

Vibration energy is not stored in the house and has no potential to be cumulative. Each blast affects your home as a single event and rarely lasts for more than a few seconds. As ground and air waves pass, the house will begin to vibrate. When the ground and air waves end, the house will stop vibrating and there will be no further effect from the blast.

Continued on Page 12

Can repeated blasting over long periods of time affect my home?

This question has been studied by the USBM. In one study a house was intentionally shaken hundreds of thousands of times. Over 50,000 cycles of intense motion (PPV ~ 0.5 ips) were needed to cause a cosmetic crack. For most blasting projects, the total number of ground wave cycles of this intensity reaching a house is fewer than 100. Vibration limits have been set to prevent cracking from repeated blasting.

Doesn't the pre-blast inspection only protect the blaster?

The pre-blast inspection protects both the homeowner and the blaster by documenting the condition of the home before blasting. After blasting has started, any suspected changes that are found can be compared to the initial condition.

How will the blasting affect my pets?

Pets, like humans, are sometimes startled by the sound of a blast or warning signals, just as they might be startled from thunder. Like humans, animals are subjected to a variety of vibration sources and events each day, with no long term effect.

Why do you want to put a carbon monoxide (CO) monitor in my house?

A CO monitor represents an appropriate safety precaution for all parties. For nearly all blasts, the CO vents to the atmosphere and rapidly dissipates. In rare situations, however, some CO may travel underground through voids and along utility lines into nearby homes.

I found a crack that wasn't noted on the pre-blast inspection. Does this mean that blasting caused it?

An undocumented crack isn't necessarily the result of blasting. There are other factors to consider in determining whether blasting caused any crack. For example, environmental effects such as temperature, humidity and wind, as well as homeowner activity may contribute to cracking. On rare occasions, a crack may be the result of blasting if ground or air vibrations exceed recommended standards.

How can I tell if this crack/nailpop/water leak etc. is from blasting?

A blasting specialist needs to look at the blast and seismograph records to determine the intensity levels of ground and air vibrations at your home. Based on the estimated or recorded vibration levels at your house, as well as other factors, it can be determined whether blasting could have been responsible.

Since blasting didn't cause the damage, then what did?

There are many possible causes. Every day, construction elements of your house shrink and swell from environmental changes, and movement occurs from human activities such as opening and closing doors and windows, hanging pictures on a wall or simply walking through the house.

Continued research has shown that changes in temperature, humidity and soil moisture can yield greater changes to a structure than ground and air vibrations from a blast that are within recommended standards.

YOU'RE INVITED TO A RETIREMENT RECEPTION HONORING

INVESTIGATOR

KEVIN L. KITTERMAN

WHO IS RETIRING AFTER OVER 23 YEARS OF SERVICE TO
THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2012

1:00 PM—3:00 PM

PITTSBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

911 WEST 4TH

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A PRESENTATION CONTACT:

ROSE M. ROZMIAREK

CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS

785-296-4199

ROSE.ROZMIAREK@KSFM.KS.GOV

Save the Dates !!

February 5 - 7, 2013



International Association
Arson Investigators
Kansas Chapter

Annual Seminar and Meeting

Topeka, Kansas

HAZ MAT NEWS

Regional HazMat Team #7 Wellington Responds to Wreck



On October 1st regional response team # 7, Wellington, responded to an over-turned MC -331 (pressurized tank) in Sumner county carrying Butane. According to the fire department, the driver was trapped in the cab and deceased. The tanker portion incurred heavy damage

but no leaks were detected. The butane had to be off loaded and the semi up-righted before the driver could be removed.

Regional HazMat Team #10 Salina Responds to Chemical Odor

Several blocks were evacuated recently when residents reported a strange odor. Salina Fire Marshal Roger Williams indicated emergency response and gas service personnel were both on scene trying to find the origin of the smell. The odor was described as similar to Mercaptan (Thiol) which is used as an odorant to give liquid petroleum products the foul smell we generally associate with such things. It is still under investigation.



State Urban Search and Rescue Team

A meeting concerning the oversight of the State Urban Search and Rescue Team (SUSAR) was discussed recently with technical rescue personnel from around the state, as well as emergency management and fire personnel. Additional meetings are planned.

Potential Mercury Contamination

On October 11th the EPA requested that personnel from the OSFM Haz-Mat Division respond to Pittsburg to monitor an apartment for possible Mercury (Hg) contamination by the previous occupants. Although there was no mercury found at the site, this was another cooperative partnership between local, state and federal entities.

Refresher Technician Class

A.J. Clemmons, HazMat Division conducted a Technician Refresher class in Emporia October 15– 17 for the Region #3 Team. There were 14 participants at the three-day class. Topics included: chemical properties, field screening, sampling, monitoring, PPE, containment and confinement.

Staff Attend Technical Rescue Conference at Crisis City

Personnel from the Office of the State Fire Marshal attended the 5th Annual Technical Rescue Conference at Crises City in Salina recently.

According to Chris Way, the Incident Commander, over 200 responders from all over the state were able to practice various scenarios and mechanisms at the conference meeting many objectives.

Crisis City offers more realistic situations than many training venues for teams to work together with each other and with the state teams. This year, the Incident Management Team was not included in the incident planning making the exercise even more realistic.



Wetlands Contingency Planning Meeting

Personnel from the OSFM HazMat Division recently attended a meeting of the Central Kansas Wetlands (CKW) Sub-Area Contingency Plan (SACP) held by the contractor for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The purpose of this Plan is to facilitate a timely and effective cooperative response by representatives of local, state and federal agencies to an oil discharge or release of a hazardous substance in the Central Kansas Wetlands Sub-area. This includes two environmentally sensitive wetland areas in Kansas, the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area.

The objective of this SACP is to coordinate an expedited response to a substantial discharge or threat of a discharge through integrating the action of the unique combination of private industry and local, state and federal entities that have jurisdiction or operate in the CKW Sub-area.

State Coordinating Agencies Meeting

On October 24th, OSFM staff attended the Emergency Support Function (ESF) Coordinators meeting.

The areas of expertise include fire, law enforcement, emergency management, agriculture, health, transportation, etc. that may need to be represented in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during times of crisis. There are fifteen functional areas.



FIRE SAFETY NEWS

Thanksgiving Fire Safety

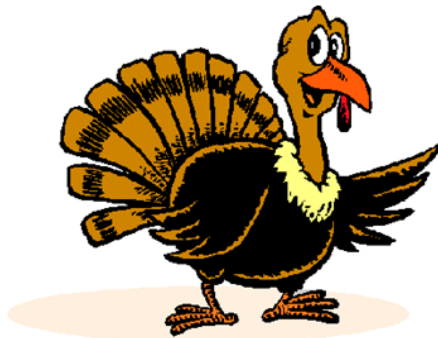
Thanksgiving is a time to give thanks for all the blessings in our lives, a time to celebrate with family and friends. This is a time when we bring out the candles and dried ornamental fall decorations, and make plans for the annual Thanksgiving feast.

Cooking and sharing that special meal with family and friends is the most notable part of the celebration and another great opportunity to remind everyone about the simple fire safety practices that can keep everyone in your home and neighborhood safe.

The top cause of fires in the home is cooking equipment, accounting for over 147,000 fires each year or 40% of all residential fires. Cooking is also associated with the largest percentage of fire-related injuries, estimated at over 27% in the home. Feel free to share these tips with those in your community and let's work to make this the safest Thanksgiving season ever!

- Be sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home, in every sleeping room and outside every sleeping area.
- Be sure your family knows and has practiced your home escape drill.
- Be sure everyone knows where the designated meeting place is outside the home.
- Be sure overnight guests are instructed on your fire escape plan and know where the designated meeting place is.
- In the event of a fire, get out and stay out, never go back inside for any reason.
- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Have a fire extinguisher available within 10 feet from your stove on the exit side of the room. A 2½ lb. class ABC multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher is recommended, but you must know how to use it.
- Do not wear loose sleeves or dangly jewelry when cooking.
- Always turn pan handles inward so they do not extend over the edge of the stove.
- Heat cooking oil slowly and watch it carefully because it can ignite quickly.
- Have a lid nearby to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan, turn off the stove and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.
- Consider having a "kid-free" zone of at least three feet around the stove and other cooking appliances.
- Keep combustible clutter away from hot surfaces.
- Keep decorations away from hot surfaces.
- Practice safe use of candles or use flameless candles.
- If you must cook your turkey in a fryer, read the manufacturer's instructions and follow them carefully.

Happy Thanksgiving!



Turkey Fryers



Deep frying turkeys has quickly grown in popularity but the OSFM is concerned that backyard chefs may be sacrificing fire safety for good taste.

If you must use a turkey fryer please **READ** the manufacturer's guidelines and follow them closely. In addition follow these safety tips:

- Turkey fryers should only be used outdoors a safe distance from buildings and any other flammable materials.
- Make sure the fryer is sitting on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.
- Never use a turkey fryer in a garage or on a wooden patio or deck.
- Never leave a turkey fryer unattended, you must watch them closely so the oil does not catch fire.
- Do not overfill your fryer with oil.
- Keep pets and children away from the turkey fryer while it is in use and after you are finished because the oil stays dangerously hot for several hours.
- Use well-insulated safety mitts and safety goggles when touching the pot or handles or when adding or removing food.
- Make sure your turkey is completely thawed. Water will cause the oil to splatter and spill over which could cause a fire or even an explosion hazard.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. Never use water to extinguish a grease fire and always call 911 immediately in the event of a problem.

The National Turkey Federation (NTF) recommends thawing the turkey in the refrigerator approximately 24 hours for every five pounds in weight.

GIVE HEATING EQUIPMENT SPACE DURING HEATING SEASON

The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Kansans to look for alternate sources to heat their homes. The use of wood burning stoves, space heaters, and fireplaces is increasing with a variety of fuels. All of these methods of heating may be acceptable, however, they must be used with caution because fireplaces, chimneys, and chimney connectors account for the largest share of heating-related fires. With portable and stationary space heaters accounting for the most fatal heating-related fires. Most could be prevented.

Whether you use a furnace system or some alternative source of heating, it is important you follow these fire safety tips to maintain a fire safe home this winter.

THE BASICS

Keep a 3-foot zone around fireplaces, wood stoves, portable space heaters, other space heaters, furnaces, floor grates and water heaters. That means make this area free of things that can burn. Keep trash and other combustibles (clothing, paper products, rugs, etc.) away from the heating system, including the large floor grates in older homes. And NEVER leave a fire burning unattended or when you go to sleep.

FURNACE HEATING

It is important that you have your furnace inspected to insure that it is in good working condition.

- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipes and pipe seams to be sure they are well supported, free of holes and cracks.
- Check for soot along or around seams which may be an indicator of a leak.
- Be sure your chimney is solid with no cracks or loose bricks. All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.

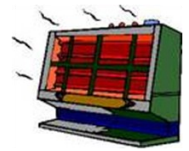


FIXED SPACE HEATERS

Homes without central-heating systems may have “fixed” space heaters that are permanently installed. The most common are wood-wood pellet, coal burning and gas-burning heaters. Some have fixed electrical units attached to a wall.

- Have all fixed space heaters installed by a professional.
- Make sure that all built-in space heaters are properly vented to chimneys and the chimneys are inspected yearly.
- Check flues for corrosion and obstructions that could cause a fire.

KEROSENE AND OTHER PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS



- Be sure your heater is in good working condition with an emergency shut-off.
- Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room ventilation, burning fuels like kerosene, coal, or propane produces deadly fumes.
- Use ONLY the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Always use the appropriate grade of fuel and NEVER introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type of fuel.
- Keep kerosene or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers in well ventilated storage areas, outside the house.
- Never fill the heater while it is operating or hot, avoid overfilling and use caution with cold fuel, it may expand in the tank as it warms up.
- Refueling should be done outside of the home, “outdoors”.
- Keep young children safely away from space heaters, especially when they are wearing nightgowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a build-up of carbon monoxide.



WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES

- Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly with adequate clearance away from combustible surfaces and with proper floor support and protection.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design and should be UL listed.
- Chimneys should be inspected annually and cleaned regularly especially if it has not been used lately.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start any fire.
- Keep a screen in front of any fireplace or stove opening to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material going in and help prevent burns to occupants.
- The stove should periodically be burned hot to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build fires.
- Never burn charcoal indoors, it gives off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from your mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these items.
- Follow the directions on the package if you use logs that are synthetic. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time.
- Never discard hot ashes inside or near your home.

AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS AND ORGANIZATION NEWS



State Fire Marshal Supports Community Partnerships in Fire Safety, Firesetter Intervention and Injury Prevention

Safe Kids Kansas Policy Platform Tops December Agenda

As part of the Safe Kids Kansas multifaceted approach to the injury prevention of children ages 0 to 14, the Coalition annually adopts a policy platform and policy priorities at their December quarterly meeting. These policy initiatives endeavor to influence the laws, regulations, and institutional policies that affect childhood safety and increase funding support for injury programs and research.

The platform, along with legislative updates, supports increased knowledge of current childhood injury policy issues among Coalition organizations and members, legislators, health professional and the general public. The policy statements contained in the platform are classified into four categories:

- **Actively Support:** To provide leadership for change regarding the policy issue.
- **Support:** to educate and/or testify regarding the policy issue.
- **Endorse:** to be on record as supporting the policy, so if legislation, ordinance, policies or funding become an issue, the Board of Directors will be able to decide whether to testify or present educational information on the issue.
- **Monitor:** to monitor the issue so, if legislation, ordinance, policies, or funding become an issue, the Board of Directors will be able to make a policy recommendation to the Coalition.

The Safe Kids Kansas topics include: child care, data collection, drowning, falls, fire and burns, funding for injury prevention, health care services for children, home safety, poisoning, sport safety, traffic injuries (motor vehicle and school bus) and unintentional firearm injuries. All the issues addressed in the Platform are important to the safety of our future generations, and impact the fire service because you are the first responders to all types of incidents. However, the ones of particular interest are the ones contained in the Fire and Burn Section which include:

- Support initiatives to strengthen, and provide education, and to enhance compliance with the smoke detector law in Kansas.
- Support policies that limit children's access to matches and lighters.
- Support national, state and local efforts to prohibit the sale of cigarette lighters manufactured to resemble toys or other items that might be attractive to a young child.
- Support state and local efforts to limit the availability and use of fireworks by children.
- Support legislation that requires installation of fire sprinklers in new single-family, manufactured and multi-family homes.

In addition, two of the platform items under the Poisoning Section would again be of interest to the fire service, they include:

- Support efforts requiring carbon monoxide detectors in residential dwellings and child care facilities.
- Endorse the proper disposal of household chemicals and positions through local Household Hazardous Waste facilities.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is the lead agency for Safe Kids Kansas which is a 501(c)3 organization that includes over 60 statewide and regional organizations and businesses dedicated to preventing childhood injuries. Visit www.safekidskansas.org for more information about injury prevention, donating, or getting involved in Safe Kids Kansas.

Wellness Fair for Disabled Adults Very Successful



For the second year, Starkey, Inc. held a Wellness Fair for the individuals with intellectual disabilities that they serve.

At this year's event, 170 individuals rotated through the 9-1-1 Simulator station, that allowed them to practice calling 9-1-1. The experience taught individuals about which situations are true emergencies, and allowed them to overcome any intimidation they might normally feel when they are considering calling for assistance.

Starkey, Inc. is in Wichita Kansas and serves 456 individuals with intellectual and developmentally disabilities through its employment, life enrichment, community living and case management programs.

The 9-1-1 Simulator is available



through the Office of the State Fire Marshal by Safe Kids Kansas and can be used for any number of health and safety fairs, school events, fire department open houses and more. To reserve the unit or for more information you can contact Elena Nuss at Elena.nuss@ksfm.ks.gov or 785-296-3403.

OTHER NEWS

Firefighter Relief Act Training

The Kansas Insurance Department will be conducting a Firefighter Relief Act training session on Saturday, November 3rd from 8:00 am to noon at the Larned High School, 815 Corse Avenue.

This will be an in-depth training that will cover all aspects of the program and its set-up for all members of an FRA. The training is provided free of charge. The agenda includes:

- FRA Program Tools
- Receipts
- FRA Expenditures
- FRA Distribution Status
- Best Practices
- New Handbook
- Insurance
- Annuities
- Complying with the Relief Act
- Kansas Open Records/Meetings Act
- FRA Online Program
- Redetermination Procedure

If you have questions or need additional information you can contact:

John Boyd
Administrator FRA
Kansas Insurance Department
785-296-7831
jboyd@ksinsurance.org

Plan to Attend Consecutive Meetings

**Fire Education Association of Kansas
Fire Marshal's Association of Kansas
Wednesday, November 7, 2012**



10:00 a.m.

1020 Huebner Road, Fort Riley



Campus Fire Forum is the only national conference that focuses exclusively on campus fire safety issues and continues to offer participants the opportunity to learn from the experts and interact with campus fire safety professional from across the country. Attendees represent colleges, universities, fire officials, city and state authorities and many other disciplines. This year's premier campus fire safety training event will be held in San Antonio Texas at the Sheraton Gunter Hotel by the RiverWalk on November 5 - 9, 2012.

The training sessions on November 5th will be conducted by the International Code Council (ICC). The sessions November 6 - 8 will include workshops, technology exhibits, town hall meeting, annual member meeting, and networking. A sampling of the workshops include: Lessons Learned Managing Major Fire Emergencies, Records Management for Fire and Life Safety Inspections, Off-campus Fire Safety, Maryland Lab Explosion, Applications of Fire Codes to Labs, Social Media to Reach Students, Understanding/Maintaining Fire Rated Door/Frame Components, Advancing Technology of Fire Detection and Alarm Systems, Automating Fire Code Compliance Assurance, and more. Finally, November 9 will be a day-course on the FireWise Campus Training and DVD Tool Kit.



For more information or to register on-line, check out www.campusfiresafety.org

Public Safety Officers Benefits Program

A unique partnership effort of the U.S. Department of Justice; local, state, tribal and federal public safety agencies; and national organizations, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Programs provide death and education benefits to survivors of fallen firefighters, law enforcement, and other first responders and disability benefits to officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

The amount of the Public Safety Officers' Benefit for deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2012 is \$328,612.73

Kansas has been fortunate not to have lost any firefighters in the past year, however, it is good to know such a resource is available if anyone needs it, see www.psob.gov for more information.

Trumpet Deadline

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal Trumpet or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos or other information, please contact Elena. Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email.

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